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CC:

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Subject: [SPAM] Mountain West News Daily Newsletter



Gallatin River Headquarters Yellowstone National Park

Photo courtesy of Rick and Susie Graetz

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Mountain West News is a program of the O'Connor Center for the Rocky Mountain West at The University of Montana

**Thursday,
Jan. 22, 2015**

Produced by Shellie Nelson, MW News Editor

Editor's notes:

In the **Rockies today**, more on the oil spill into the Yellowstone River in Montana, coal production increased last year in Wyoming, and Idaho officials take advantage of their time with President Obama to present differing views about protection of the Boulder-White Cloud Mountains.

[Mountain West Voices](#)

[On the Bookshelf](#)

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[A Look Ahead](#)

In Montana, the town of Glendive is working to clean up its water treatment plant after oil spilled into the Yellowstone River made its way into the plant.

Montana Department of Environmental Quality officials said company workers had been able to recover 240 of the 1,200 barrels of the oil that flowed into the river, but with much of the remaining oil trapped under ice, cleanup is complicated.

The ice is also making it difficult for Montana and federal wildlife agents to assess the harm the oil has done to fish in the river.

In Wyoming, the state ended its four-year consecutive decline in coal production in 2014, when the amount of coal mined increased by 2 percent.

In Idaho, President Obama heard from Boise Mayor Dave Bieter on the importance of designating the Boulder White Clouds a national monument, a stance that Lt. Gov. Brad Little countered immediately on his meeting of the president.

Also in the news, Yellowstone Park bison are again being shipped to slaughter to reduce the number of bison in the park, and Utah wildlife officials are moving mule deer off Antelope Island to areas of the state where herds are in decline.

Today in [On the Bookshelf](#), Barbara Theroux of Fact and Fiction reviews S.M. Hulse's "Black River," a story of justice, revenge and forgiveness based in Montana.

Quote of the day:

"Nothing's perfect. I wish it was. Is it worth the risk? The answer to that question in the past in this country has always been yes."

On the Bookshelf

Barbara Theroux reviews S.M. Hulse's ["Black River"](#)

Mountain West Perspectives

Montana's two-year colleges [revamp education to meet changing workplace demands](#)

Mountain West Voices

Hear the stories of the Mountain West:

- 1/14/2015: [Where We Belong](#)
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Major Funders:



Jeff Farrells, the executive director of the Pipeline Association for Public Awareness, discussing the [latest pipeline breach that released oil into the Yellowstone River in Montana, acknowledging that pipelines, new and old, carry the risk of failure.](#)
- AljazeeraAmerica.com

Rockies today

Latest oil spill in Montana threatens water supply, roe industry

The mayor of Glendive, the small Montana community downstream of the oil spill into the Yellowstone River, has said making the town's water drinkable again is the No. 1 priority, but the spill will continue to affect farmland in the area and will affect fish in the river, including paddlefish, from which the Montana town gets caviar and markets to fine restaurants in Tokyo, Paris and New York.

Aljazeera America; January 21

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- **Federal, Montana wildlife agencies on scene of Yellowstone River spill**

Just as ice is complicating the cleanup of the estimated 40,000 gallons of oil that spilled into the Yellowstone River last Saturday, the lack of good ice is complicating federal and Montana wildlife agencies' investigation into how the spill will affect fish and other species as ice is preventing a look at how the oil is spreading.

Great Falls Tribune; January 22

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- **Read an Opinion piece from a Montana landowner affected by the 2011 oil spill**

; January 22

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Wyoming coal mines increased production in 2014

After four consecutive years of declining production, Wyoming coal mines reversed that trend in 2014, increasing production by 2 percent, and the nation's largest coal mine, Peabody Energy's North Antelope Rochelle complex in the Cowboy State, reported a 6 percent increase in production.

Casper Star-Tribune; January 21

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President Obama hears from both sides on Boulder-White Clouds protection

Boise Mayor Dave Bieter hitched a ride back home from Washington D.C. on Air Force One, where he spent some time lobbying President Obama to designate the Boulder-White Clouds area as a national monument, a position countered immediately by Idaho Lt. Gov. Brad Little, when President Obama walked off the plane.

Idaho Statesman; January 21

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Colorado legislative panel denies more funding for noncitizen driver's license



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program

The Colorado Legislature's Joint Budget Committee voted against a measure Wednesday to provide supplemental funding for the state's program to provide noncitizens a driver's license, which means the five of the 56 Department of Motor Vehicle offices that offer the service, will be cut to just one in March. The five offices had struggled to keep up with demand, with the current wait for an appointment estimated at four years, and without the supplemental funding, the wait could extend to sixteen years.

Denver Post; January 22

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Utah wildlife agency relocated 100 mule deer from Antelope Island

The population goal Utah Division of Wildlife has set for Antelope Island for mule deer is 350 but nearly double that, 700 or so, now roam the area, and this week, 100 female mule deer were captured and moved to Mount Dutton and Elk Ridge to bolster deer herds in those area of the state.

Deseret News; January 22

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Buffalo Field Campaign: 100 Yellowstone Park bison shipped to slaughter

Yellowstone National Park spokesman Al Nash confirmed that some bison that had been captured near the park's northern border with Montana had been shipped to slaughter, but disputed Buffalo Field Campaign's report that 100 bison were shipped out on Wednesday.

Flathead Beacon (AP); January 22

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Oregon firm begins hiring for manufacturing plant in W. Montana

Harris Thermal Transfer Products spin-off, Harris Manufacturing, is in the process of hiring workers for its new fabrication plant in Western Montana east of Missoula. Skilled welders are in highest demand, and the company is working with both the Missoula and Helena colleges to add sub-arc welding classes to train workers. The plant is expected to be in operation in March, and will provide 35 new jobs over the next two years.

Missoulain; January 19

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Water

Residents of Montana mobile home park buy it to address water problems

The residents who own the 90-home trailer park built in 1962 in Montana near Great Falls are taking control of their future by buying the trailer park, which one state official said had the worst water and sewer problems she'd ever encountered, and with funding and assistance from a trio of state agencies as well as nonprofits and elected officials, Trailer Terrace has drilled a new well and will put in new water and sewer systems when the weather allows.

Great Falls Tribune; January 22

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Opinion

Mineral-rights compensation bills in Colorado may be premature

There's no surprise in the fact that Democratic and Republican legislators in the Colorado Legislature have staked out differing positions on energy development, with Republicans offering bills to protect mineral rights holders in the event local governments pass bans on drilling, and Democratic legislators saying that the governor's task force charged with working out differences between the state and local governments on energy development should be allowed to complete its work--both positions which deserve support and which reflect the importance of balance when it comes the risk and reward of energy development.

Durango Herald; January 22

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Canada should follow China's lead and stockpile cheap oil

China is taking advantage of low oil prices and buying up to 700,000 barrels of oil a day to build up its emergency reserves, and since Eastern Canada must still import 40 percent of the oil it uses, it would behoove the country to begin stockpiling oil it produces. *A guest editorial by Gordon Laxer, the founding director and former head of University of Alberta's Parkland Institute and author of a forthcoming book on Canadian energy and ecological security.*

Calgary Herald (Montreal Gazette); January 22

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Montana landowner shares lessons learned in oil spill in 2011

Alexis Bonogofsky shares her firsthand experience and lessons learned from the 2011 oil spill in the Yellowstone River, which affected her land along that Montana river near Billings.

LastBestNews.com; January 21

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Wyoming governor picks and chooses what science he endorses

Gov. Matt Mead is clearly skeptical about the science that indicates the burning of fossil fuels is contributing to climate change, and his administration has pushed back on scientific research on wolves, elk feedgrounds and sage grouse that runs counter to his policies, which makes his embrace and multi-million-dollar support of cloud-seeding somewhat interesting, given that the cloud-seeding is done to counter a changing climate. *A column by Todd Wilkinson.*

Jackson Hole News & Guide; January 21

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Beyond the region

Pipeline breach spills 3M gallons of briny water in western North Dakota

Summit Midstream Partners LLC first detected and reported a breach in its pipeline near Williston on Jan. 6, but North Dakota officials said they didn't learn that 3 million gallons of briny water, a byproduct of oil and gas drilling operations, had been released. Full assessment of the effects of the spill won't likely be completed until the ice melts, and is expected to take months.

New York Times (AP); January 22

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USGS reports 8 earthquakes in 24 hours in southern Oregon

The strongest of the earthquakes that rumbled along Oregon's southern border Wednesday night and early Thursday morning registered at a 4.5 magnitude.

Portland Oregonian; January 22

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Studies find ways to halt inadvertent spread genetically modified organisms

Synthetic biology is a growing industry, as bacteria is engineered to do things like clean up oil spills or produce biofuels, but how to address the environmental effects of "escaped" organisms is a growing concern in the industry, and two studies to be published today in the journal Nature provide complementary methods to deal with organisms that spread beyond their intended use.

Christian Science Monitor; January 22

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